

Now quit complaining

What a great, happy town we have! Not enough concerns or complaints to even half fill the seats at the Chamber of Commerce town forum. About 70 people were there last Wednesday, many of them already closely allied with a particular group or cause. There were a few new faces and that was good.

But where were all the people who have been criticizing regional government? Who have been crabbing about road construction? The fire hall or town hall? The police? At home, apparently content. Okay, people. You had your chance. Now quit complaining.

Free Press Editorial Page

How big is too big?

How large should Acton become, and how can the people who live here limit its size?

That was a main question at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Wednesday.

The town planner and councillors wanted to hear from people about their ideas on the subject, they said.

Through the discussion the fact emerged that three petitions have been prepared with many signatures, yet even at that the people don't always feel their voice is heeded.

One petition signed by 2,000 asked for the saving of the town hall. Look at it today, its focal point sliced off and an ugly cement building looped around it.

The petition on regional government seems in limbo. The Halton region committee studying the subject thought the petition should go to Halton Hills council since its concerns were of the "area" variety. Yet the concerns all stem from the enforcement of regional government in the first place! Darcy McKeough's office

has not been heard from.

A petition on parking was somewhat offset by another petition taken up at the same time. It's possible this subject can be worked out, with necessary parking spaces provided one way or another.

But it's not altogether an encouraging prospect for petitioners, who might spend many hours in preparing a brief and gathering up signatures, as these other groups have done so enthusiastically.

And the question of how much the town should grow is of course an extremely difficult one to answer in the first place.

In nearby Peel county, the population increased by more than 24,000 residents this year so far. Peel Region absorbed 44 per cent of the total influx of people into the Greater Toronto area between 1971 and 1976, and the trend is continuing. In the same time period, Halton population grew 14.6 per cent.

Our side roads are filling up with new houses. There is growth everywhere.

What should we do about it?

Boon to community

A boost to the community will be the delivery of Meals on Wheels, starting here next Monday. A committee of the Community Services Centre has been working on plans, and everything is set to go next week.

The Y and Services Centre provide the logical place for the service. Phone calls requesting meals and co-ordinating drivers for delivery will all centre in Terry Grubbe's office.

In a truly helpful way, people in the town can help our older people most practically. Although the charge of \$1.25 covers the cost of the meal completely, the delivery is the only problem in the scheme. Many drivers and runners have volunteered already.

The committee had expected more people to express a desire to have the meals. As it is, the service is starting out with the same number as Rockwood delivers daily, about six. No doubt the fig-

ure will increase as people see friends and neighbors benefitting.

The meals come from Halton Manor, where special diets are regularly catered to. Don Grein, who is driving children from Tinkerbell Nursery daily, has volunteered to add the meals to his day's work at no extra cost.

In Erin, the meals on wheels are prepared by a group of volunteer cooks. Our ability to order from the Manor makes the service much simpler here.

In Rockwood, the meals come from Guelph hospital.

Probably we all know some one who could benefit from having a hot meal brought right to the door. Especially in winter, shopping is a very difficult chore for many of these people who live alone. They want to keep their homes and their independence as long as they can.

Now, the community will help them.

About Indian Summer

Each year about this time we hear on all sides that Indian Summer has arrived. Then begin the great arguments over when, where and why Indian summer really comes.

Research tells us that Indian summer is a spell of clear weather often persisting for a week or more, characteristic of middle and late autumn in central U.S.A. It occurs in a large stagnating anticyclonic area; the first day may be cold, but under the clear skies with light winds the daytime hours of each succeeding day become warmer and warmer while hoar frost, dew or valley fog may occur during eacy chilly night.

The weather-map situation of Indian summer is not so definite as for other weather: it consists of a moving cool shallow polar air mass into a deep warm stagnant cyclone with strong temperature ranges between day and night.

We think more simply of Indian summer as the name given to a period of mild, pleasant weather which usually occurs toward the end of autumn. The temperature rises fairly high in the day after extremely cool nights and there is a haze or smokiness in the air. This haziness of the air, the musty odor

and glorious colouring of the leaves gives us a relaxing effect from the warmth following the cold snaps and makes distinctive or romantic overtones to autumn.

The term Indian summer was first used in western Pennsylvania at the end of the 18th century. In time it spread throughout the entire U.S.A. to Canada and then to England.

We believe the explanation of the term "Indian" to this elusive non-scheduled weather treat is that early settlers must have thought the entire smokiness was produced by the numerous woods and grass fires made by the Indians at harvest time.

Theories or no—specific time or no—let's enjoy Indian summer when our hearts tell us it's here! —The Coast Guard, Nova Scotia

Of this and that

Let's give it another try.

10Km equals 6 miles, 20 Km equals 12 miles, 30 Km equals 19 miles, 40 Km equals 25 miles, 50 Km equals 31 miles, 60 Km equals 37 miles, 70 Km equals 43 miles, 80 Km equals 50 miles, 90 Km equals 56 miles, 100 Km equals 62 miles.



Lest we forget

IN HORSESHOE SHAPE, crowds ringed the town's cenotaph Sunday morning for the traditional ceremonies that recall the sacrifice made by men of the armed services from this district in two world wars and since then. At the haunting call of the Last

Post, all the flags dipped. Dr. A. J. Buchanan, a wounded veteran of two world wars, lowered the poppy flag, and silence fell. For two minutes all was still and Acton remembered.

Our readers write

Mill St. improved

To the Editor: Having recently returned to Acton after an absence of sometime we were impressed by the appearance of Mill St. The brick sidewalks, concrete curbs and new road surface all stood out remarkably, compared with many towns we had passed

through enroute. It occurred to us that extra attention to the "old" town can be of great advantage to the town and possible newcomers. Congratulations to all who planned, debated and persevered!

Harold Force

Expresses appreciation

The Editor Acton Free Press Dear Mrs. Dills, May I express the appreciation of many for the generous coverage given the opening of the new school and for the abundance

of excellent photos. Congratulations on your own recent awards and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely yours, Rev. J. Smye

What happened to letters?

Acton Free Press Acton (Halton Hills) Dear Editor: Please find enclosed cheque for my subscription to the Free Press. Either I'm getting older, or mellow, but what's happened to all the great letter

writers we used to enjoy in your "Letters to the Editor" column? Seems the only time people get aroused is at election time! By the way, the people up here think "Halton Hills" is a name for a cemetery and I tend to agree with them! Cheers, Sheila O'Rourke



They got all excited when they found someone had planted a bug in the mayor's office . . . until they found out it was only a cockroach.

Share the good news

Dear Sir: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Executive Council and Members of The Ontario Massed Legion Pipes and Drums for any coverage you may have accorded us through your newspaper, prior to our return visit to Miami, Florida, to take part in the Annual King Orange Parade last January.

Although the weather was poor the night of the parade, the rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the members. This enthusiasm and pride, combined with the reception we received from the thousands of spectators who lined the three mile route, enabled the band to receive the honor of being presented with "The Top Award" plaque for the second time.

Earlier this year, the band members were advised by the President (and Senior Pipe Major) Ross Baxter, that he had received a letter from the Tournament of Roses Association, Pasadena, California, inviting our band to participate in the 89th. Tournament of Roses Parade on Monday, January 2, 1978.

Needless to say, we have accepted the invitation and would greatly appreciate your assistance in sharing our good news with your many readers. During our stay in Pasadena, we will also be playing at the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach, as well as Disneyland and we have been invited to play in Tijuana, Mexico by the Mayor of that city.

Yours very truly, Bill McCutcheon Senior Drum Major and Public Relations Officer

(Editor's note: The Ontario Massed Legion Pipes and Drums played here on fair weekend in 1976).

Remembrance

It has become traditional that I attempt a story each year, as our National day of sorrow rolls around for yet another year. We call it Remembrance Day.

It is a story I find impossible to write. Therefore I have, in the past, borrowed in desperation from writers who are no longer with us and not likely to object. Perhaps my caution is unwarranted, because they were compassionate men and would have understood my difficulty.

One writer in particular is still on the best-seller list. He could capture the sorrow, the futility and the tragedy in a few lines of perfect prose. Unfortunately, I cannot ask him. He died almost two thousand years ago.

Therefore on this Remembrance Day, I borrow from Alexander Woolcott a small story first published in The New Yorker, in April, 1934.

By cutting a word here and there, I shall condense it to the satisfaction of the Editor. And when I arrive in the place where Mr. Woolcott is still producing his incredible prose, I think he will brush a fragment of cloud from his round little paunch and refer me to The Best Writer of Them All!

"In my own personal Hall of Fame are men and women I know for but a single moment out of all their lives. One was a general in the British Army. I met him in a letter from a bystander, who wrote me thus:

"I was standing in the Strand, waiting to cross, when I noticed a young officer standing beside me fiddling with a walking stick in that indefinite way that blind people do.

"I was about to offer him my arm when another voice offered just that. The voice came from a pocket edition of a man, resplendent in brass hat, red tabs, with crossed swords on his shoulder. He was about fifty years of age. The boy was about twenty, with one small pip on his shoulder.

"The general led him across. When they reached the other side, the boy fished in his pocket until he dug out sixpence, which he pressed into the other's hand. Reb Tab looked bewildered for a moment—and then pulled himself together. With a grand clicking of heels and the most perfect of stiff salutes, he murmured with tears in his voice, "THANK YOU, SIR!"

—From the Back Porch by Bill Clark

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 8, 1967

Gordon Ralston announced he has sold Acton Box Company to F. Unterhahrer. First traces of snow fell during the Remembrance Day service.

Acton's CNR station is a forlorn, deserted looking place this week. Orders came through Monday that neither the agent or the operator could sell tickets, money orders or handle freight.

An addition to the M.Z. Bennett school will be proposed. At the Edelweiss ball at the high school, Susan Allan was chosen Queen.

Centennial year grade 13 grads are Martha Hoey, Susan Clarke, Rita McCrea, Kathryn McKenzie, Nancy Winter, Eleanor Heard, Dan Arbie, Betty Cook, Linda Linham, Gayle Withers, Vern Denny, Merl Harris and Joanne Landsborough. Canon Bothwell was speaker at commencement and Rita McCrea was valedictorian.

Gary Buttenham has painted a mural modelled after Michaelangelo on the wall downstairs at the parish hall.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 14, 1957

Council approved the building of a sewage treatment plant.

A memorial service was held at the United Church for Flying Officer Ronald Rolston, who died last week in a plane crash over Germany. Rev. G.S. Adams conducted the service for this popular young jet pilot. He is remembered for his interest in sports, Scouts and church activities.

Halton County has formed a Civil Defense committee.

Y secretary Dave Docherty is forming a safe driving club for teenagers.

The Acton Scottish Country Dance Club is planning for St. Andrew's Day. Dr. R. Buckner is president.

A bylaw to establish a community centre for Ballinafad was approved by Erin township council. Rev. Adams, Rev. Costerus, Rev. Evan Jones and Rev. A.H. McKenzie took part in the Remembrance Day service at St. Alban's church after the service at the cenotaph on Monday, November 11.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 10, 1927

On the public school roll of honour for October are Adabel Brown, Ted Hansen, Irene Cross, Ted Elliott, Ezio Marzo, Margaret Arnold, Harold Skilling, Roderick Ryder, Herbert Price, Frank Jones, Helen Lamb, Norman Braida, Bill Nicolak, George Williams, Jack Blow, Elmer Mainprize, Jackie Hollinger, Walter Lamb, Doris Wilson, Kathleen Gibbons.

The cold weather retarded the laying of new cement on No. 7 highway.

Ice was frozen on Corporation Pond and Fairy Lake but the most venturesome did not give it a try-out.

Acton is indeed fortunate with industries. All are working full time and running overtime.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 8, 1877

That part of Nassagaweya locally known as Sodom has been in a state of feverish excitement over an assault case. (Lengthy details follow.)

"Protracted meetings" are being held nightly in the Methodist church. We are informed nearly 50 persons have been led to see the error of their way and have made profession of reformation.

The Methodist church is also adopting the envelope system of "weekly offerings" for the payment of the minister's salary. It is said to be preferable to the system of quarterly givings.

Walking costumes, made in length six inches from the ground, will be fashionable the coming winter. Ladies are tired bearing trains, repairing skirt bottoms and cleaning dust and mud that their dress has swept from the sidewalk.

The short-horn breeders have now formed a National Association. The object seems to be to praise each other's cows.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

CCMA
BILL
RIBBON
AWARD
1977

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 50 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the Canadian Community News Papers Association and the Ontario Weekly News Papers Association. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance, \$7.50 in Canada, \$25.00 in all countries other than Canada, single copies 15 cents, carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 2615. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertisements are an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time. Bill Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. David H. Dill, Publisher. Bill Clark, Editor. Bill Clark, Advertising Manager. Copyright 1977